

HOUSE BILL 2489

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

49-6-3601.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education; and
- (2) "Municipality" means any city or town organized and operating under the general or special laws of the state.

49-6-3602.

(a) The commissioner shall promulgate rules to create a program that certifies 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations to volunteer to teach students in various subjects, including, but not limited to, reading comprehension, mathematics, foreign language, and science.

(b) A certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation shall be allowed to enter a school for purposes of educating students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) both during and after school hours; provided, that the 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation's courses do not interfere with regularly scheduled courses provided by the school.

(c)

(1) The commissioner shall create an application process for which a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation shall apply to participate in the certification program created by this section.

(2) To apply to participate in the certification program, a 501(c)(3) must agree, in writing, to the following requirements:

(A) The 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation shall maintain a minimum of five hundred (500) volunteers at all times if the municipality in which the nonprofit corporation is located has a population of at least five hundred thousand (500,000), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census. The commissioner shall determine the minimum amount of volunteers required for 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations located in municipalities with a population less than five hundred thousand (500,000), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census;

(B) All volunteers of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation who will teach in the school shall undergo a background check with standards to be set by the commissioner in accordance with § 49-5-413; and

(C) The 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation volunteering pursuant to this part shall not receive funding from any municipality.

49-6-3603.

(a) The commissioner shall promulgate rules regarding the conduct for all volunteers participating in the program created by § 49-6-3602.

(b) If rules created by the commissioner pursuant to § 49-6-3602(a) are violated, the local education agency has the authority to remove the certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation from the program. The local education agency shall notify the commissioner immediately after such removal takes place.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.